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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4798

LIBERTY REPARATIONS

PS 8-4 US-ISR

REF: TEL AVIV A-1009, JULY 6, 1968

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE RE LIBERTY REPARATIONS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 5:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 74 DATED 1 JULY 1968, CONCERNING THE U.S.S. LIBERTY. QUOTE: IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT OF 8 JULY (SIC) 1967, WHICH HAVE COME TO LIGHT IN VARIOUS INQUIRIES CARRIED OUT BOTH IN ISRAEL AND IN THE UNITED STATES, THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS NOT LIABLE FOR THE DAMAGE CLAIMED IN THE NOTE MENTIONED ABOVE. QUOTE: THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD, OF COURSE, STUDY CAREFULLY ANY ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS AND MATERIAL WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT WISH TO SUBMIT.
QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECALLS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS ALREADY PAID THE FULL AMOUNT (THREE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS), CLAIMED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON BEHALF OF THOSE SUFFERING LOSS AS A RESULT OF DEATHS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. LIBERTY. IN MAKING THIS FULL PAYMENT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WAS MOTIVATED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP SUFFERED BY THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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QUOTE THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN ITS NOTE OF 27 MAY 1968, STRESSED THAT THAT SETTLEMENT WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL MIGHT TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER CATEGORIES OF CLAIMS MENTIONED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 26. UNQUOTE.
GP-3 BARBOUR

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER S/S-O.

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